United Nations A/AC.286/WP.2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 February 2016

English only

Open-ended Working Group taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations[1]

Geneva 2016

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda
Concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that will need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons

Panel I on substantively addressing concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that will need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons

Submitted by the Chair-designate

Mandate

1. Pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/33, entitled "Taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations", adopted in December 2015, the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene an open-ended working group in Geneva to "substantively address concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that will need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons" (operative paragraph 2).

2. The open-ended working group "shall also substantively address recommendations on other measures that could contribute to taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, including but not limited to (a) transparency measures related to the risks associated with existing nuclear weapons; (b) measures to reduce and eliminate the risk of accidental, mistaken, unauthorized or intentional nuclear weapon detonations; and (c) additional measures to increase awareness and understanding of the complexity of and interrelationship between the wide range of humanitarian consequences that would result from any nuclear detonation" (operative paragraph 3).

[1] Established pursuant to resolution 70/33 of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

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Objectives

3. This panel will focus on operative paragraph 2. It aims to assess in depth relevant existing international legal measures, provisions and norms as well as to identify all elements pertaining to "effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms" that are necessary for multilateral progress towards a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Guiding questions

4. What are the essential elements that would comprise effective legal measures, provisions and norms for attaining and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons?

5. What effective legal measures, provisions and norms in addition to those that currently exist need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons, and what are their respective advantages and disadvantages?

6. What international legal architecture is needed and how could those new arrangements be applied in complementarity with existing legal measures and provisions? – would obligations under existing international instruments need to be harmonized or streamlined?

Panelists

- Ms. Gro Nystuen, Senior Partner, International Law and Policy Institute (ILPI)
- Ms. Rebecca Johnson, Director, Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy
- Ms. Helen Durham, Director of International Law Strategy, Planning and Research, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (tbc).